

Winter-Spring  
2021

# Jaffrey Historical Society

Civic Center, 40 Main Street, Jaffrey, NH 03452

603-598-0120

## GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

AS YOU ALL KNOW, these have been strange and unusual times. The restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic have interrupted our large gatherings. But we have managed to come together in small groups to continue our interactions with our community.

We currently have two displays on the History Floor of the Library. There is a Conant High School display to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the School. See <https://rs4l.smugmug.com/Jaffrey/JHS/Civic-Center-JHS-Display-Cases/i-KqM4Qhh> for more. We have also installed a new, semi-permanent display of Willa Cather memorabilia.

The Society also installed a February Valentines display at the Civic Center. Vintage Valentines dating from the late 1800s to the early 1900s were on show in the glass cases. Some cards were from our Archives, but most were on loan from Society members. All exhibited the charm of the era! See <https://rs4l.smugmug.com/Jaffrey/JHS/Library-Exhibits/i-k4TBQ5Q> for more.

Many thanks to Vicki Arceci, Karen Ayers and Dick Boutwell for their work and dedication organizing and laying out all of these displays!

We are happy to announce to all that the Civic Center has a new permanent Executive Director, Rebecca Fredrickson. Please stop by and welcome her to Jaffrey (see next page).

LOOKING FORWARD: As the vaccine for COVID-19 is becoming more broadly distributed the Society will start to rekindle its activities in pursuit of its mission to preserve and highlight Jaffrey's history and heritage. We may be able to start comfortably by summer holding outdoor events, such as a Cutter Cemetery Tour and our Annual Meeting.

*"Better days are just around the corner"*

Charlie

The Board of Directors expresses its sincere gratitude for the generous donations to the Society by its members in lieu of dues this year. We were also the grateful recipient of thoughtful donations in memory of our beloved Director & Past President, Bill Driscoll. Thank you all very much. 🐾



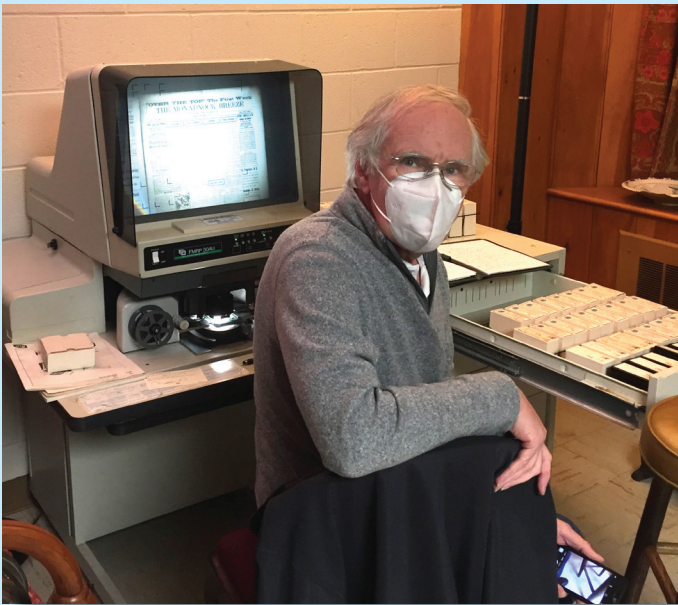
Antique Valentines at the Civic Center. 🐾

## MASTER PLAN UPDATE

THE SOCIETY and the Civic Center have been working on a master plan for our home on Main Street for some months now. The Pandemic has slowed progress but a final report is expected soon from our consultant, Keene architect Michael Petrovick. Some of the observations and recommendations are minor and not unexpected—code issues, delayed maintenance, etc. Others are more dramatic (and ultimately more expensive). It's been an interesting exercise for all those involved and has caused us to think about the future of the building and its setting and of our respective organizations. We expect to post the report on our website and will let everyone know when that happens. 🐾



## News of your Society



Ken Sheldon using the 'new' microfilm reader recently donated by the Jaffrey Public Library. His book on the Dean Murder, which is being supported by the Society, is close to completion. 🐼



Black bunting was draped on *Monadnock 4* in memory of **Bill Driscoll**, long-time member, Past President, local tour guide and driver of the *Seagrave*. 🐼



The poster highlighting the exhibit the Society staged at the Jaffrey Public Library. It's still there and the History Floor is now open so drop by and have a look or go to <https://rs41.smugmug.com/Jaffrey/JHS/Civic-Center-JHS-Display-Cases/i-KqM4Qhh>. 🐼



The Society welcomes **Rebecca Fredrickson** as the new Executive Director of the Civic Center. We look forward to working closely with her in the years ahead. 🐼

### THE SOCIETY ON THE WEB

- There are two Society websites: Sean Driscoll maintains <http://www.jaffreyhistory.org> and Rob Stephenson maintains <http://www.rs41.org/jhs.htm>
- Voluminous information on the Dean Murder is at: <http://www.deanmurder.org>
- Photographs and other images are on SmugMug at: <https://rs41.smugmug.com/Jaffrey/JHS>

## Archives

Dick Boutwell, *Chair*

UNSEEN BY MOST, the Accessions Moles are still at work in their basement rooms in the Civic Center, the space we have occupied since 1960, when Marion Mack Johnson designated it for us when she opened The Jaffrey Civic Center. Our three rooms are lighted and heated (and cool in the summer) but have been filling up over the past 60 years. Areas of what was at first exhibition space now are used for storage of supplies and equipment and are, by present codes, not accessible to all users.

A very useful tool, a microfilm reader, was recently donated to us by the Library, along with microfilms of Jaffrey newspapers going back to the early twentieth century. Steve Cooke has our old computer running again, and we hope we'll soon have the new one in place. *In Sight of Mount Monadnock* by Rudyard Kipling came in recently from a former resident. A group of identified pictures, family and business artifacts recently were donated by the Cournoyer/Caron Family. When a recent display of Jaffrey Auto Dealers was prepared, we found we have a great lack of material about Jaffrey's small businesses through the years. We welcome anything you might have. 🐾

## Membership

Marcie Manning, *Chair*

WE ARE saddened by the deaths of **Bob Banker & Charity Brown, Reynold Belletete, Al Clapp, Barbara Davis, Bill Driscoll, Bank Greene, Peter Rivard and Regina Vorce.**

We welcome as new members **Atlas PyroVision Entertainment, Judith Goff, Barbara & Steve Pelkey, Amy Pfeil and Janet Weekes.** 🐾

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS 2021

*All events are tentative because of Covid-19 concerns.*

**SUNDAY, JUNE 27:** *Cutter Cemetery tour* (with the Jaffrey Cemetery Committee) • **THURSDAY, AUGUST 19:** *Annual Meeting, Location & Program* TBD • **MONTH OF AUGUST,** Exhibit, TBD • **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17:** *Annual Autumn Outing*, Amherst, New Hampshire • **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9:** *Annual Christmas Party* with the Civic Center, 5:30-7pm. 🐾

## EXHIBITS

Karen Ayers, *Chair*

ALTHOUGH the world began a prolonged pause in March 2020, the Society continued to stage exhibits in both the Jaffrey Civic Center and the Jaffrey Public Library.

On the second floor of the Library—also known as the History Floor—the **DINING OUT** exhibit was replaced with **150 YEARS & COUNTING**, an exhibit of artifacts commemorating the 150th anniversary of Conant High School. A permanent exhibit to celebrate the author WILLA CATHER, a frequent visitor to Jaffrey, was also installed. Now that the second floor is accessible on Mondays and Thursdays members will have an opportunity to appreciate some of Jaffrey's history.

In February a **VINTAGE VALENTINES** exhibit was mounted in the Jaffrey Civic Center showcasing items from the Society's collections as well as cards and memorabilia from Pat Cournoyer, Karl Putnam, Allison Randall, Ann Sawyer and Kathy Weibel. These generous loans brightened the days of this long winter. 🐾

## Officers & Committee Chairs

*President:* Charles Turcotte • *Vice Presidents:* Peter Lambert & Lou Casagrande • *Treasurer:* Karl Putnam

*Corresponding & Recording Secretary:* Vicki Arceci • *Archives:* Dick Boutwell

*Exhibits:* Karen Ayers • *Hospitality:* Cathy Proulx & Diane Schaumann

*Little Red Schoolhouse:* Jackie Johnson • *Membership:* Marcie Manning

*Monadnock No. 4:* Dave Kemp • *Publications:* Rob Stephenson • *Webmaster:* Sean Driscoll

## Directors

2018-2021

Karen Ayers  
Alan Bartunek  
Emily Preston  
Betty Shea

2019-2022

Henry Hammond  
Jackie Johnson  
Susan Leach  
Fran McBride

2020-2023

Marty Harris  
Cathy Proulx  
Pete Sawyer  
Diane Schaumann

## Director Emeritus

Joe Manning

## Past Presidents

Dick Boutwell • Helen Coll • Bruce Hill • Owen Houghton • Dave Kemp  
Marcie Manning • Kent Royce • Rob Stephenson

## Trustees of the Trust Fund

Harvey Sawyer (2018-2021) • Clay Hollister (2019-2022) • Betty Royce (2020-2023)



# TEACHING FOR DEMOCRACY

YOU MAY not know that the teaching of American History and Civics has been pushed to the back burner in American schools. In New Hampshire, some schools are doing a good job teaching these fundamentals, but most of our Granite State schools spend little or no time preparing our children to be informed citizens. Given the heated divisions in our country, the NEW HAMPSHIRE ROUNDTABLE FOR CIVIC EDUCATION is creating a coalition to promote teaching for democracy in every district, every town in our great state. Local historical societies have an important role to play in this effort. Our collections, documents, and values are needed to bring local history to life, to show students and remind all of us about the importance of our long-standing civic traditions. The JHS Executive Committee is beginning to discuss what specifically we can do, especially as we plan for the 250th anniversary of our town. If you are interested in joining our discussions, please contact me by email at [lbcasagrande@gmail.com](mailto:lbcasagrande@gmail.com). 🍷

—Lou Casagrande

## EARLY HISTORY

WE ALL KNOW that Jaffrey was incorporated and named in 1773. And most people know that it was called Middle Monadnock prior to that, having been surveyed and laid out in 1749 by the Masonian Proprietors. But how did New Hampshire become settled by the Europeans in the first place?

As Annett and Lehtinen described it in Volume I of the *History of Jaffrey*, from the time of the first permanent English settlement in America in 1606 at Jamestown, “seedy noblemen and merchant adventurers flocked around the King of England, offering their services in development and exploitation of the treasure they imagined to be hidden in the mysterious forests beyond the Western Ocean, for which they would pay the King one-fifth part of all the ‘oare of gold and silver’ they obtained.”

King James I couldn’t possibly manage all these entrepreneurs so in 1620 he chartered a company to do that for him called the *Council of Plymouth* in Devon, England. The president and most active member was Captain Ferdinando Gorges who soon found a trusted associate named Captain John Mason. In 1622 the Captains were granted, without the benefit of maps or surveys, some large parcel of land north of Jamestown they called Mariana. Over the years, without the convenience of easy communication, various grants were made that overlapped previous grants resulting in conflicts and legal challenges. So it is not surprising to learn there were several succeeding claims to the same land.

It was on 16th of April, 1623, when twenty one men landed at what is now Rye beach and established the first white settlement. Within a couple of years there were four communities: Strawberry Banke (Portsmouth), Dover, Hampton, and Exeter. In 1640 the four villages requested to be affiliated with the Province of Massachusetts Bay for protection purposes.

In 1629 the Captains Gorges and Mason split up their holding over northern New England with Gorges retaining what is now Maine and Mason claiming what he named New Hampshire after the county he hailed from in England. Mason died in 1635 having never realized the fruits of his endeavors. So what happened in New Hampshire over the next 100 years, before Middle Monadnock was settled as a township? Stay tuned for the next chapter at [jaffreyhistory.org](http://jaffreyhistory.org) or [jaffrey250.com](http://jaffrey250.com) or at Facebook. 🍷

—Bruce Hill

REMEMBER your Society has a **Facebook** page! On it you will find details on upcoming events and programs, news of the Society, interesting photos and articles from our Archives, and information from other Societies and the Historical Society of Cheshire County. Just go to the Search function on Facebook and type in **Jaffrey Historical Society**.

—Vicki Arceci